

WYCOMBE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963

Medical Officer of Health :

A. J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. P. PERRY, M.A.P.H.I. M.R.S.H.

W Y C O M B E
R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
A.J.MUIR, M.B., CH.B., B.Hy. D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
J.P.PERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29428300>

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1963

CHAIRMAN:- SQ. LDR. B. LOCK

VICE-CHAIRMAN:- MR E.C. HALSEY

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 1st May, 1963

CHAIRMAN:- MR G.B. LEE

The Chairman of the Council	
The Vice-Chairman of the Council	
The Immediate Past Chairman of the Council	
The Chairman of the Finance Committee	
The Chairman of the Public Works Committee	
The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee	
The Chairman of the Town Planning and Plans Committee	
Mrs D.A. Baker	Sq.Ldr. H.B. Jefferies
Mr F.J. Barksfield	Mrs A.S. Laing
Mr A.J. Billinghamurst	Mr C. Morris
Mr E. Burrows	Mrs F.H. Pitcher
Rev. J.D. Charlesworth	Mr C.C. Roberts
Mr F.J. Cooke	Mr G. Spear
Miss J.H.C. Couper	Rev. H.H. Vickers
Lady Glenavy	Mrs D.M. Walker
Mr H.A. Harris	Mr C.W. Willison

STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A.J. MUIR, M.B., Ch. B., B. Hy., D.P.H.

(Also Area and Divisional School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough
and Marlow Urban District)

Main Office Address: Municipal Health Centre
High Wycombe, Tel. H.W. 4031/2
Home Tel. H.W. 1338

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P.E. DOYLE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.A. D.P.H.

(Also Assistant County Medical and School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough
and Marlow Urban District Council.)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J.P. PERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Office Address:- WYCOMBE R.D.C.,
Public Health Department,
28, High Street,
High Wycombe, Tel. H.W.1030
Home Tel. Naphill 2115.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

B.R. NAGLE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

R. BAILEY, M.A.P.H.I.	(Appointed Feb. 1963)
J. BURR, M.A.P.H.I.	(Appointed Feb. 1963)
S.A. LATIMER, C.R.S.H.	
C.S. WENSLEY, M.A.P.H.I.	(Appointed Nov. 1963)
J.H. HACKFORD, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.	(Resigned Oct. 1963)

CLERKS

MISS. R.M. SPENCER
MISS. S.E. BALL

RODENT OPERATIVES

E.V. BOWLER
MRS. D. KIBBLES

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department
28, High Street,
High Wycombe.

September, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit for your information the 1963 Annual Report on the
Public Health Services.

The population of your district continues to increase - 54,630
people were estimated by the Registrar General to be living in the
area in mid 1963. This is 1,530 in excess of the previous year's
figure which was 1,080 above that of 1962.

Births numbered 1,010, only 18 above the figure for 1962 but
because of the increase in the population the greater number of
births resulted in a fall in the birth rate from 18.7 to 18.13 per
1,000.

Deaths numbered 494, a drop of 13 and when related to the
increased population this gave a reduced mortality rate of 9 per
1,000 as against 9.5. Of the 494 deaths almost half (244) were the
result of circulatory diseases, 86 were caused by various forms of
cancer and 73 by respiratory disease. Of the 86 cancer deaths 21
(16 male 5 female) were in respect of lung cancer. This is in
conformity with what has occurred in the past few years.

Infant deaths were 18 in number - one more than in 1962 - this
resulted in a marginal increase in the infantile mortality rate from
17.4 to 17.8 per 1,000 births. In accordance with usual experience
most happened in the first four weeks - there were 11 such deaths, the
neo-natal death rate being 10.9.

1963 was a "measles year" and 682 cases were notified. This was the only disease of any epidemic importance. The manufacture of a suitable vaccine which will help to prevent this disease and its often serious after-effects is reported to be well underway and if this is the case this disease will be added to growing list of preventible diseases. Although modern drugs can alleviate or cure many of the complications of the disease nevertheless because of its widespread nature and the susceptibility of the child population it is productive of much disability.

I have made brief comments on the more important aspects of the report and the bare statistics are given in the following pages.

In conclusion I thank the Council for their interest and help and Mr Perry and the staff of the department for their ever ready assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.J. MUIR

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS.

Area in acres	71,232
Population (1961) census.....	51,252
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid-1963.....	54,630
No. of inhabited houses on rate book (31st March, 1963).....	16,235
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1963.....	£732,205
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1st April, 1963.....	£3,019
General rate in the pound.....	24/6d
Rate Product (net) (including B.T.C. Grant).....	£902,241

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number.....	1,010
Rate per 1000 population.....	18.5
Comparability Factor.....	0.98
Adjusted Birth Rate.....	18.13

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births.....	3.76
---	------

Stillbirths

Number.....	21
Rate per 1000 total live and still births.....	20.36

Total Live and Still Births.....	1,031
----------------------------------	-------

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year).....	18
--	----

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births.....	17.8
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births.....	17.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births.....	26.3

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births).....	10.9
---	------

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births).....	8.9
--	-----

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births).....	29.0
--	------

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths.....	1
Rate per 1000 total live and still births.....	0.97

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths	-	Males	-	245
		Females	-	249
				<u>494</u>

Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.....	9.0
Comparability Factor.....	1.12
Adjusted Local Death Rate.....	10.08
Death Rate of England and Wales.....	12.2
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Total County.....	0.037

INFANT MORTALITY.

18 infants died under the age of one year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.....	10	7	17
Illegitimate.....	1	0	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>18</u>

This represents a mortality rate of 17.8 per 1,000 related birth compared with 20.9 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate - 10.9 compared with a county rate of 12.9.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis..... 0
- (b) From other maternal causes 1

TABLE OF DEATHS.

	<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	3	0	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other.....	1	0	1
3.	Syphilitic diseases.....	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0	0	0
8.	Measles.....	0	0	0
9.	Other infectious diseases.....	0	1	1
10.	Cancer, stomach.....	3	1	4
11.	Cancer, lungs.....	16	5	21
12.	Cancer, breast.....	0	8	8
13.	Cancer, uterus.....	0	3	3
14.	Other cancers.....	28	21	49
15.	Leukeamia, aleukaemia.....	0	1	1
16.	Diabetes.....	2	0	2
17.	Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	19	51	70
18.	Coronary diseases, angina.....	58	30	88
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.....	5	3	8
20.	Other heart diseases.....	22	32	54
21.	Other circulatory diseases.....	10	14	24
22.	Influenza.....	0	5	5
23.	Pneumonia.....	14	23	37
24.	Bronchitis.....	15	9	24
25.	Other respiratory diseases.....	6	1	7
26.	Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....	3	1	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis, nephrosis.....	3	1	4

TABLE OF DEATHS. (contd)

<u>DISEASES.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	5	0	5
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	0	1	1
31. Congenital malformations.....	3	1	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	19	28	47
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	5	2	7
34. Other accidents.....	3	7	10
35. Suicide.....	2	-	2
All causes...	245	249	494

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	<u>Rate per 1,000 Total</u> <u>(Live and still) Births.</u>	
	<u>England &</u> <u>Wales.</u>	<u>Wycombe</u> <u>Rural</u> <u>District.</u>
(a) Maternal causes, excluding abortion....		0.97
(b) Due to abortion.....		Nil
(c) Total maternal mortality.....	0.28	0.97

CANCER DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages):-

Males.....	47
Females.....	38
	<hr/>
Total.....	85
	<hr/>

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1963.....	85
1962.....	94
1961.....	89
1960.....	99
1959.....	81
1958.....	77

The following organs were affected:-

Stomach.....	4
Lungs.....	21
Breast.....	8
Uterus.....	3
Other Sites.....	<u>49</u>
Total.....	85
	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases).....	0.073
Total Deaths - Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	.054
Total Deaths - Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	.018
Total Deaths - Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis).....	.73
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis).....	1.33

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1963.

District	Population Census 1961	Registrar-General's estimated Population mid-1963.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births.
Bucks County	486, 183	515,920	19.2	9.9	0.037	17.7	12.9	0.30
Total Urban	240,990	258,080	20.8	9.3	0.031	17.7	12.9	0.18
Total Rural	245,193	257,840	17.6	10.5	0.043	17.6	13.0	0.43
Wycombe Rural	50,831	54,630	18.5	9.0	0.073	17.8	10.9	0.97
England and Wales			18.2	12.2	0.063	20.9	14.2	0.28

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1963.											
	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25+	Age-Un- known
Scarlet Fever.....	16	-	-	-	-	2	10	1	1	2	-
Whooping Cough.....	1	1	2	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis:-											
Paralytic.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.....	682	14	46	68	71	77	331	47	17	4	7
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	17	-	1	-	1	-	10	3	1	1	-
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis:											
Infective.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post Infectious.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fevers.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Meningococcal Infection..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	726	15	49	68	72	79	354	52	19	11	7

<u>TUBERCULOSIS.</u> <u>NEW CASES DURING THE YEAR</u> <u>1963.</u>				
Age Periods	Tuberculosis - New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	2	5	-	-
45 - 64	2	-	-	-
65+	-	-	1	-
Totals	4	5	1	-
<u>DEATHS DURING THE YEAR</u> <u>1963.</u>				
Age Periods	Tuberculosis - Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	2	-	-	-
65+	1	-	1	-
Totals	3	-	1	-

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

During the year there was no change in the procedure for immunisation against poliomyelitis. Children of six months and over were eligible and attendances at the clinics were good and most children had administered the oral type of vaccine although the salk type was sometimes given - usually by general practitioners.

Since vaccination was introduced there has been a very steep decline in the incidence of the disease.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS.

Now it is the practice to use a combined vaccine to immunise against these three diseases and the current routine is to follow up the three doses of poliovaccine given at four weekly intervals from the age of six months with three injections of a triple vaccine.

During 1963, 765 children were immunised against diphtheria, 752 against tetanus and 716 against whooping cough. 694 children had boosting doses against diphtheria.

SMALL POX VACCINATION.

In contrast with 1962 there was no outbreak of smallpox in the country in 1963. Only 214 vaccinations were carried out compared with 1764 the previous year. Re-vaccinations were 39 compared with 815.

B.C.G. VACCINATION (TUBERCULOSIS)

The scheme for testing and vaccinating the 13 year old children attending private and maintained schools was continued during the year. In all 1,600 children were vaccinated or 90.65% of the number tested - 9.35% having given a positive response.

The percentages positive in previous years were:-

1958.....	19.7
1959.....	14.2
1960.....	8.0
1961.....	9.0
1962.....	9.4
1963.....	9.35

In the last few years there has been a remarkable reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis and B.C.G. vaccination has played its part in the reduction particularly in the adolescents.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Only 9 cases of pulmonary and 1 non pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. There were three deaths from lung disease and one other from disease of other organs. This small number although more than last year cannot be considered unsatisfactory.

HOSPITALS.

Hospitals available to local residents are as follows:-

General:-

High Wycombe War Memorial
Amersham General
Stoke Mandeville
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.
Battle Hospital, Reading.
Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow.

Maternity:-

Shrubbery Maternity Home
Amersham General Hospital
Canadian Red Cross Hospital

Fevers:-

Stoke Mandeville and
Maidenhead Isolation Hospitals

Mental:-

St John's Hospital, Stone

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These are based on the station at West End Street, High Wycombe. With the increasing population of the districts served consideration is being given to the need to provide extended facilities.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - No formal action

CESSPOOL EMPTYING 1963.

I am indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following figures:-

District		Estimated Gallons Removed.
1	Ilmer, Longwick, Owlswick, Meadle, Princes Risborough, Monks Risborough, Askett, Gt and Lt Kimble, Kimblewick, Marsh, Terrick, Butlers Cross, Ellesborough, Dunsmore, Cadsden, Whiteleaf, Green Hailey and Gt & Lt Hampden.....	2,444,650
2	Bledlow, Bledlow Ridge, Horsenden, Saunderton, Routs Green, Radnage, Stokenchurch, Water End, Studley Green, Horsleys Green, Beacons Bottom, Spriggs Alley.....	2,571,350
3	Downley, Piddington, Lane End, Wheeler End, Bolter End, Cadmore End.....	2,439,890
4	Frieth, Ibstone, Fawley, Hambleden, Turville, Skirmett, Medmenham, Fingest, Bovingdon Green, North End, Southend.....	2,075,500
5	Gt & Lt Marlow, Sheepridge, Tylers Green, Penn, Loudwater, Wooburn Moor, Wooburn, Wooburn Green, Cores End, Hawks Hill, Berghers Hill, Bourne End, Hedsor, Heavens Lea, Harvest Hill, Wooburn Common, Flack- well Heath, Well End, Winchbottom, Handy Cross, Bocker.....	2,159,650
6	Gt Kingshill, Widmer End, Four Ashes, Cryers Hill, Spurlands End, Western Dene, Naphill, Walters Ash, Coombe Lane, Boss Lane, New Road, Trees Road, Trees Avenue, Hughenden Valley, Hazlemere, Holmer Green, Terriers, Eastern Dene, Speen, Lacey Green, Loosley Row, Hampden Row, Parslows Hillock, Bryants Bottom, North Dean, Bradenham.....	2,603,150
	Total.....	14,294,190

RAINFALL 1963.

I am indebted to the Director of the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, for the following particulars of rainfall recorded during 1962.

Rainfall recorded at Princes Risborough				
Station: 333 feet above sea level.				
Month	Monthly Rain-fall Inches	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest Rainfall	
			Date	Amount Inches
January.....	0.90	14	3rd	0.33
February.....	0.47	10	6th	0.18
March.....	4.33	20	9th	0.78
April.....	2.61	19	11th	0.28
May.....	1.67	17	21st	0.31
June.....	3.22	17	12th	0.66
July.....	1.40	13	6th	0.66
August.....	3.50	19	3rd	1.20
September.....	2.31	15	1st	0.63
October.....	1.63	15	31st	0.40
November.....	4.62	23	17th	0.94
December.....	0.77	14	24th	0.20
Totals.....	27.43	196		

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1963.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the
Environmental Health Services for the year 1963.

I desire to pay a sincere tribute to the Chairman, Vice-
Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their
help and ever ready co-operation in all matters affecting the
sanitary conditions of our district.

My thanks are especially due to the members of my staff
for their helpful and loyal co-operation during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.P. PERRY

Chief Public Health Inspector.

FOREWORD

Generally.

The work of the Public Health Department is of a comprehensive character and includes duties relating to clean food, clean air, clean water, good housing, sanitation, factory inspections, offices and shops inspections, infectious diseases and endeavouring to secure conditions in the rural district such that public health and noise nuisances do not arise. Should statutory nuisances occur however action is instituted under the various provisions of the appropriate public health legislation.

Housing:

To maintain and improve housing standards, to clear areas where improvement is impracticable and to control and solve the varying problems of unsatisfactory accommodation is a feature of the work of this department.

It is generally recognised that the great task which now faces the country is how to ensure that every dwelling which is to remain in use for a reasonable period ahead is provided with those amenities which we have come to regard as essential in a decent modern home.

Having completed a slum clearance programme the Council are endeavouring to raise the statutory standard of fitness of existing houses to a modern level, and have resolved to implement the Minister of Housing & Local Government's recent circular whereby local authorities are recommended to encourage owners to improve houses which lack modern facilities.

Accordingly I arranged for a survey of houses to be carried out in order that a programme for the improvement of houses throughout the district may be prepared.

Water Supplies:

One hundred years ago drinking water caused many deaths annually. Whilst to-day water borne disease has been reduced to insignificant proportions, the possibility of disease from water must never be overlooked.

Sampling of water is a routine duty of the Public Health Inspectors in order to ensure that water is free from contamination.

Clean Food:

The necessity for an efficient system of supervision and control of the public food supply cannot be overestimated.

The Council's Public Health Inspectors exercise constant vigilance in order to ensure that food supplies are wholesome. There are three private slaughterhouses in the district and all the animals killed therein, numbering some 17,000 each year, are examined by the Inspectors.

Clean Air:

The emission of smoke, grit and other pollutants is a public nuisance, damaging to health, buildings and plants. Inspectors of the Public Health Department are engaged in duties designed to prevent atmospheric pollution and ensure that the air we breathe is clean.

Sanitation:

With the implementation in recent years of main drainage schemes in certain parts of the district, cesspools and septic tanks have been eliminated on a large scale. This has progressively reduced complaints which have in the past required investigation owing to unsatisfactory conditions arising from defective or inadequate cesspools and septic tanks.

The officers of the department are now engaged in checking unsatisfactory drainage systems which are not connected to the sewers and instituting action to enforce their connection. Improvement of sanitary accommodation is also being achieved by securing, where appropriate, the conversions of pail closets into water closets.

Factories,
Offices &
Shops.

Duties in relation to these premises include determination of the wholesomeness of water supplies, sufficiency of sanitary accommodation and adequacy of drainage systems, and certain duties in connection with the employment of outworkers.

In factories where mechanical power is not used the duties are extended and relate to cleanliness of premises, overcrowding, unreasonable temperatures, inadequate ventilation and ineffective drainage of floors.

With the passing of The Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963, statutory control of the conditions of work which began with the early nineteenth century regulation of the textile industry receives a wide extension estimated to cover eight million people in the non-industrial field. Regulations are prescribed for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in offices and shops.

Pest
Infestation
Control:

Rats and mice consume and foul the nation's food, carry diseases to human beings and cause great damage to goods and property. With the urgent necessity of conserving world food supplies, rodent extermination is a factor of major importance, particularly when it is realised that one-sixth of man's food is consumed, damaged or contaminated by pests mostly rats and mice. The Council operate an excellent rodent destruction service which is constantly applied throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.

Other duties which claim the attention of the inspectors of the Public Health Department include:

Inspecting the district and taking action to abate nuisances which are prejudicial to health;

Registering and inspecting premises in connection with persons engaged in businesses as dealers in old metals;

Ensuring that animals in pet shops are accommodated and cared for in a satisfactory manner;

Enforcing the provisions of the Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963, to secure satisfactory conditions for pets in boarding establishments;

Taking action to prevent the sale of heating appliances which are not fitted with suitable guards;

Registration of Hairdressers' Premises and enforcement of bye-laws designed to secure the cleanliness of premises, instruments, towels and cleanliness of persons employed.

To ensure that all caravan sites are properly equipped and run, by implementation of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, and the issue of site licences;

Inspection of farms to determine the sufficiency of sanitary conveniences, for the use of farm workers, in accordance with the provisions of the Agriculture, (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956;

Inspections of game dealers' premises in connection with the licensing of Game Dealers; and

Visits in connection with cases of notifiable diseases.

HOUSING.

In the years since the end of the war the Association of Public Health Inspectors have become increasingly concerned with the need for more determined efforts to modernise the large numbers of sound but older houses which lack the amenities now regarded as essential for full, happy and contented family life.

Three papers have been prepared on this subject and presented to the Association's Annual Conference in 1958, 1961 and 1963 under the titles of "Housing - Looking to the Future," "Progress in Housing" and "Improving Our Homes - A Plan for Action."

In the earlier papers the Association expressed the view that the introduction of the voluntary improvement grant schemes had done little to improve the standards of amenity in rented homes. It was recommended therefore that local authorities should be given power to enforce the modernisation of houses considered suitable for this treatment.

These views were fully accepted by the Annual Conference at which the papers were presented and resolutions were passed urging legislative action by the Government on the lines suggested. Support has been given by the Association of Municipal Corporations, Urban District Council's Association and the National Housing & Town Planning Council.

Furthermore the Government themselves are not satisfied with the progress which is being made with improvement works. The standard grants scheme introduced in 1959 has been rather more successful than the discretionary scheme, but progress under both schemes have been far below the rate required. Although the rate of improvement with grant aid rose to 135,000 a year in 1960, in 1962, only 115,000 houses were improved with grant; the figure for the first six months of 1963 is 59,696.

In circular 42/62 the Minister of Housing & Local Government urged local authorities to stimulate owners to make a greater use of the grants available and intimated that where they met with resistance he would be prepared to consider the use of compulsory purchase powers.

The Government's policy took a further significant step forward when it was announced in a subsequent White Paper entitled "Housing" that the Government aimed at stepping up the rate of improvement to between 150,000 and 200,000 houses a year and that to help to achieve this objective local authorities are to be given powers of compulsion.

These powers are to be restricted to rented accommodation and the intention is that rented houses with a reasonable life and capable of improvement, should be provided with at least hot water, a fixed bath or shower, a wash-hand basin, a water closet and a proper food store - viz, the five "standard amenities."

It is intended however that the obligation to improve should take place at the request of the tenant and in addition there will be an obligation on landlords to improve houses on change of occupation. The obligation will apply only in areas declared by local authorities to be "improvement" areas.

Whilst these proposals are a step in the right direction the Association consider they are not sufficiently comprehensive. Powers of compulsion are restricted and in any case are limited to the five standard amenities. The Association therefore in their 1963 paper set out in detail the powers which they believe local authorities must be given if a successful attack is to be made on the large number of sub-standard houses which should be modernised and how the powers should be applied.

It has been stated that 29 per cent of householders in England and Wales still have no bath, 6 per cent have no flush lavatory and 28 per cent have no hot water supply. The extent of the problem can be appreciated when it is realised that there are still some two million homes capable of improvement.

Housing Action.

Having completed their slum clearance scheme the Council considered it a natural and logical step to turn their attention to securing the improvement of all dwellings which are to remain in use for a reasonable period ahead.

It was resolved therefore to implement Circular 42/62 in which the Minister of Housing & Local Government urged local authorities to stimulate and encourage owners to make greater use of the grants available.

I was accordingly instructed by the Council to prepare a pilot scheme for an area within which owners would be invited to improve their properties. An area was selected comprising 140 houses, 83 of which were found to be lacking in one or more of the five standard amenities, three merely lacking food stores.

Letters were sent to the owners giving details of the grant schemes and inviting them to modernise their houses with the aid of improvement grants. This was followed up by a "door to door" approach by the Public Health Inspectors who gave practical help and advice to interested householders on the best possible arrangements for installing the standard amenities.

The initial response was encouraging and to date owners of twenty-nine houses have submitted applications for improvement grants. Reasons submitted by owners for not wishing to improve their properties included lack of finance and occupation by aged persons.

Following the Pilot Scheme a survey of the whole district was undertaken. As the survey progressed it became obvious that houses lacking the standard amenities were not well defined in groups as in towns, e.g. rows of good terraced houses, but tended to be widely distributed and interspersed with modernised and modern houses. Consequently it seemed appropriate to select larger areas so as to include a reasonable number of properties requiring improvement within each area.

For the purpose of the survey all post war houses were excluded and also all houses of the inter-wars period of a high standard where it was obvious that bathrooms had been provided.

During this preliminary survey over 1,200 houses were inspected, and as a result the Council approved further areas within which owners are to be approached and encouraged to improve their properties. This work is proceeding.

During the year under review the Council approved applications comprising 53 discretionary grants and 60 standard grants.

Unfit Houses.

Formal housing action has proceeded during the year under review and 60 properties were dealt with as individual unfit houses in order to secure either their repair, closure or demolition.

In addition action was taken under various provisions of the Public Health Acts whereby housing defects were remedied. Details relating to this work are as follows :-

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 5, 10 & 12 of the Housing Act 1957:-

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, (informal notices) | 3 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs | - |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of notices | 3 |

(b) Proceedings under Sections 16, 18 & 23, of the Housing Act 1957:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	60
(2) Number of dwellings the subject of closing orders ...	7
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	29
(4) Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings not to use for human habitation when vacated	7
(5) Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings to repair	3
(6) Number of dwelling houses repaired as a result of undertakings given by owners	10
(7) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	6
(8) Number of demolition orders revoked	-

(c) Proceedings under the Public Health Act 1936 :-

(1) Houses in which defects were remedied after the service of informal/formal notices	67
(2) Houses the subject of informal/formal action to secure connection of soil drainage systems to sewers	91
(3) Houses the subject of informal/formal action to secure conversion of pail closets into water closets.	67
(4) Houses the subject of formal/informal action to secure provision of food stores	19

Rent Act 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

Rent increases for controlled houses and the decontrol of a substantial number of larger houses should enable landlords to carry out essential repairs and maintain their property in a satisfactory condition.

The number of certificates of disrepair issued by local authorities is relatively small. This should not be regarded however as indicating the general fitness of houses. It is more likely to be attributed to fear of eviction, or of court proceedings, to a lack of interest by the tenants or hesitation on the part of owners to increase the rents of houses requiring repair, than to be due to the absence of items of disrepair.

Applications for certificates of disrepair during the year under review numbered three. Applications for certificates have however been small in number since the Act came into force, a total of fifty-one having been received since the introduction of the Act.

Proceedings under the Rent Act 1957:-

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

(1) Number of applications for Certificates	3
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	-
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	3
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	3
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso in paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ..	-
(6) Number of certificates issued	-

Summary of House Repairs and Sanitary
Improvements effected, 1963

(a) Interior of Houses

Rising dampness eliminated	8
Penetrating dampness eliminated	14
Burst water pipes repaired	3
Ceilings replastered	6
Walls replastered	18
Sinks provided	6
Piped water supply taken into houses	3
Defective windows repaired or renewed	14
Floors repaired or renewed	7
Doors repaired and made weatherproof	8
Provision of handrail to stairs	2
Defective skirting boards repaired or renewed	3
Ventilated foodstore provided	2

(b) Exterior of Houses.

Penetrating dampness eliminated	17
Leaking house roofs repaired.....	12
Walls repointed and/or repaired	14
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	9
Rainwater pipes renewed and repaired	6
Rainwater tank cover renewed	1
Chimney stacks repointed	8

(c) Drainage

Defective, leaking or overflowing cesspools repaired or renewed	12
Drains/sewers cleansed from obstruction	5
Drains and sewers renewed or repaired	8
Houses provided with a satisfactory drainage system	4

(d) Miscellaneous

Accumulations of refuse etc. removed	2
Offensive odours abated	3
Smoke nuisances abated	8
Noise nuisances abated	5
Nuisance from insects abated	1
Dangerous building demolished	1

(e) Sanitary Conveniences.

Water closet structures repaired	4
--	---

WATER SUPPLIES

A public water supply is available to practically all householders throughout the district. Such a fundamental provision for the health and comfort of the community is all too often taken for granted.

There has been a quiet revolution in rural conditions in the last 20 years, brought about by the installation of piped water supplies and sewers. The 1951 census showed that 21 per cent of our rural dwellings had no piped water supply. Since then the figure has been reduced to 4 per cent and the reduction is continuing.

The object of successive governments has been to strengthen and rationalise the water industry. Progress in this direction is evident when regard is had to the 400 statutory water undertakings now operating in England and Wales as compared with over 1,200 at the end of the war and most of this progress has been made since 1956 when there were still some 1,000 undertakings. The end of this process has not yet been reached. The objective is to establish a water supply organisation to keep pace with the rapidly growing demand for water.

This trend is reflected in our own district in which only two statutory undertakings now operate as a result of the Bucks Water Board Act of 1959 whereby the Board took over the water undertakings of the Borough of High Wycombe, Wycombe Rural District Council and the Marlow Water Company.

Local authorities have the statutory duty to determine the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies in their districts. Constant vigilance is exercised therefore to ensure that water supplies are not subject to contamination and water sampling is frequently carried out by officers of the Public Health Department.

The undermentioned water undertakings operate in the Council's district :-

Bucks Water Board

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Bucks Water Board

Reports received from the Board indicate that the water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year 1963.

Bacteriological examination of water from the three pumping stations supplying water in the area have been made as follows :-

Mill End Road (High Wycombe) Pumping Station

Raw water samples examined	51
No. of samples free from coliform organisms	49
No. of samples free from E. Coli, Type I	49
Treated water samples examined	91
All were free from coliform organisms	

Saunderton Pumping Station

Raw water samples examined	45
No. free from coliform organisms	16
No. free from E. Coli Type I	30
Treated water samples examined	45
All were free from coliform organisms.	

Radnage Pumping Station

Treated water samples examined	21
All were free from coliform organisms	

It was not possible to examine raw water samples from this station as chlorination was applied in the well.

None of the waters is plumbo-solvent.

All waters are chlorinated before distribution.

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company

Reports received from the Company also confirm that their water supplies are satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

In their whole area of supply of which the rural area served is only a small part, over six thousand samples were taken. Over five thousand were bacteriological samples and coliform organisms were consistently absent from 100 ml. of treated water. Chemically the water was found to be clear and bright, neutral in reaction and free from excessive amounts of mineral constituents.

The water is not plumbo-solvent.

Piddington Water Supply

A private supply of water at Piddington serves 115 houses and a factory. At one time the water at source showed signs of contamination and because of special circumstances relating to this supply the Council undertook to provide a chemical reagent feeder in order to chlorinate the supply. The plant was installed and the treated water has since conformed to a satisfactory standard of purity.

As in preceding years the surveillance of the chlorinating plant calls for three visits per week and the weekly collection of samples for bacteriological and chemical examination.

Other Sources

There are comparatively few houses which are not within reach of public water mains. The occupiers of some houses, however, still derive their water from wells and rainwater tanks. In certain cases individual properties are away from water mains, in other cases owner-occupiers with limited incomes are reluctant to incur the cost of a main water supply where the mains are not within a reasonable distance, whilst the occupiers of other dwellings have a prejudice in favour of their individual supplies as compared with a main water supply.

Supplying main water to houses which are isolated presents a financial problem which is often overcome by asking householders to make a special contribution towards the cost of extending the water mains, together with contributions from the Council and the water undertakers. During the year four schemes involving twenty-two houses were either initiated or completed. Two other houses were connected to the public mains supply by the owners.

Water Sampling

(a) Private Water Supplies.

During the year 34 samples were taken by the Department from the private water supplies serving 28 houses, 4 food premises and 2 factories.

Based on the classification suggested by the Ministry of Health for non-chlorinated piped supplies only 8 results could be considered satisfactory after bacteriological examination and/or chemical analysis.

Owners of the properties with water supplies not conforming to a satisfactory standard were requested to provide a wholesome and sufficient supply.

(b) Public Water Supplies.

During the year 22 samples were taken by the Department from the public mains in the various parishes throughout the Rural District, for bacteriological examination. All proved to be satisfactory.

(c) Piddington Water Supply.

During the year 50 samples were taken by the Department from this private supply.

Two samples showed slight contamination, but immediate check samples proved to be satisfactory.

DETAILS OF WATER SUPPLY.

Parish	Supplied direct by pipes into houses.		Supplied by Standpipes	
	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population March 1964	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton.	621	2,091	2	4
Bradenham.....	42	410	-	-
Chepping Wycombe Rural.	3,079	10,068	12	34
Ellesborough.....	298	942	-	-
Fawley.....	59	241	-	-
Fingest.....	592	2,235	3	5
Hambleton.....	436	1,581	-	-
Hampden, Gt & Lt.....	112	397	-	-
Hedsor.....	45	138	-	-
Hughenden.....	2,062	7,904	4	7
Ibstone.....	98	357	-	-
Kimble, Gt & Lt.....	269	908	-	-
Lacey Green.....	410	1,624	-	-
Longwick-cum-Ilmer.....	181	685	1	2
Marlow, Gt.....	716	2,449	4	6
Marlow, Lt.....	271	1,089	1	2
Medmenham.....	129	1,137	-	-
Radnage.....	219	731	1	2
Princes Risborough.....	2,069	7,430	3	5
Stokenchurch.....	837	3,058	2	3
Turville.....	106	397	2	3
West Wycombe Rural.....	616	2,110	2	4
Wooburn.....	2,591	8,681	4	6
Totals.....	15,858	56,663	41	53

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Introduction.

It has been estimated that the population of the world 2,000 years ago was about 250 million. This doubled to 500 million by 1650, doubled again to 1,000 million by 1850 and to 2,000 million by 1930. It has now reached a little over 3,000 million and will double again to at least 6,000 million by the end of the century.

In the last ten years from 1950 to 1960 there was an increase of 500 million persons representing an annual increase equal to the present population of the United Kingdom.

In these circumstances the need for food preservation is of the utmost importance. It is estimated that one-fifth of the world's supply of food is lost through spoilage. To increase the supply and to assist in its safe transport and storage it is essential to use chemical substances.

The food industry, and the regulations governing the quality of foods, have been much concerned with the addition of chemicals, such as preservatives, colouring matters, stabilising and emulsifying agents. Undoubtedly the public have been uneasy over the number of chemicals used in foods, the most frequent question being the one of unknown long-term effects.

To-day we are becoming more concerned with a different group of chemicals which may contaminate food; these are the chemicals used in agriculture for crop protection, by those concerned with warehousing against insect pests of stored commodities, by the food manufacturers in combating infestation in processing plant and by the public at large, who are being offered an ever-increasing range of insecticidal products for use in the home.

The need to satisfy public uneasiness on the possible hazard of chemicals in food and agriculture has been recognised by the various Government Ministries for the last ten years. This has resulted in the formation of a number of Committees to survey evidence of pesticide residues in food and to recommend appropriate legislation.

One committee recently stated "On grounds of human hazards, there is in our view insufficient evidence at present to justify a complete ban on any of the pesticides we have reviewed." An Advisory Committee on Poisonous Substances recommended however the cessation of various agricultural uses of dieldrin. No immediate restrictions have been placed on the current uses of DDT, but a close watch on this insecticide will be made over the next three years, particularly as the restrictions on dieldrin might cause the usage of DDT to increase.

Clearly, the control of infestation is recognised as a vital issue in all aspects of food production and handling and it would be unwise to curtail the means at our disposal to deal with insect problems as and when they arise. There is an element of risk in all technological developments and to maintain the advancement of mankind, these risks, minimised as far as possible, must sensibly be accepted.

No doubt the attitude of the Government Committees considering this matter must be that whilst there is no cause for alarm, neither is there room for complacency.

Food Hygiene

Great advantage has been made in the method of food preparation and display. Food hygiene is being recognised as good business by increasing numbers of traders and consumers and progress is to be seen everywhere. Everywhere there is a trader doing more business than his neighbour because food care is an obvious part of his routine.

For food hygiene success we need clean premises and clean people in these premises on both sides of the counter. Improvement of premises has been most noticeable. Lay-out, good storage, protective display, sanitary fittings and cleansing routines are increasingly becoming food trade considerations.

In spite of these improvements there is an appreciable number of food poisoning incidents each year.

It would appear that we have not yet been so successful with the individual as with the premises, and it is in the action of the individual that decides for and against food care. Many people practice good standards of food hygiene, but to be successful food care must be practised by everyone. Home is still the centre of environmental health standards and it is those standards which are introduced into food premises and at work.

It must be remembered that clean food handlers can produce clean wholesome food in premises with little equipment, but food prepared in kitchens with the most elaborate fittings may be unsafe if staffed by dirty food handlers.

General rules to combat food poisoning include scrupulous domestic and personal cleanliness, careful cooking, quick cooling, discontinuance of re-heated meat dishes, adequate cold storage accommodation for foods both before and after cooking; the household refrigerator should be an essential installation in each home.

Food hygiene cannot be accomplished by punitive action alone. The human element is a vital factor, and the natural habits of food handlers are reflected in the degree of protection afforded to food or conversely the dangers to which it is exposed.

Education must play an ever increasing part in promulgating healthy environmental conditions generally. Education in its widest sense including public lectures, newspaper and magazine articles, radio and television programmes, food guilds, exhibitions etc.

To achieve food hygiene success by public education is a long term policy. The less spectacular method of imparting knowledge is in the course of routine inspection of food premises, when bad practices and faulty techniques can be observed and corrected on the spot.

In this sphere of work the public health inspectors have been actively engaged advising traders on the application of the Food Hygiene Regulations, in order to ensure, where necessary, improved conditions and practices where food is being prepared, stored or sold for human consumption.

Food Hygiene Regulations

During the year, 55 visits were paid to the poultry packing stations one of which is in full time production, averaging 50,000 birds per week; 42 visits were paid to bakehouses and baker and confectioners' shops, 82 to butchers' shops, 5 to fried fish shops, 49 to greengrocers and fishmongers, 41 to cafe, hotel, factory canteen and transport cafe kitchens, 12 to sweet shops, 35 to licenced premises and clubs, and 4 to other food preparing premises. These together with the 51 visits paid to ice-cream premises and vehicles, 41 to food hawkers, 30 to market stalls and the 941 inspections (twice daily) of slaughterhouses made a total of 1,388 visits to food premises during the year. In addition to meat inspection, forty-two visits were made to food shops in connection with the inspection of other foods. In one case of a complaint re food it was resolved to take proceedings regarding the finding of a finger dressing in an oven-ready bird.

The Company concerned was fined £25.

A list of the improvements effected either to the structure or cleanliness of Food Premises, or to the technique in food handling during the year follows, but does not include the many improvements resulting from informal discussions between the occupiers and the Public Health Inspector during routine inspection of premises.

LIST OF IMPROVEMENTS AND/OR UNSATISFACTORY
CONDITIONS REMEDIED IN FOOD PREMISES DURING
1963.

Food rooms cleansed and/or redecorated.....	41
Food rooms repaired (floors, walls, ceilings, windows).....	10
Wash-basins provided.....	9
Sinks provided.....	4
Provision of constant hot water supply.....	13
Provision of intervening ventilated space between W.C. and foodroom.....	7
Refuse receptacles provided.....	8
Rodent infestation treated.....	28
Food exposed to contamination removed.....	4
"Wash-hands" notices displayed on request.....	25
"No Smoking" notices displayed on request.....	6
Proper facilities for hanging outdoor clothing provided.....	8
Food Hawkers vans brought to standard.....	11
Impervious surfaces provided to worktops and counters.....	12
First aid kit provided.....	3
Unwrapped foods placed behind glass and not exposed to contamination from customers.....	3

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.
SECTION 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

(a) Prepared Foods.

Twenty-five premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

(b) Ice-cream.

One hundred and twenty-three premises are registered under the above Act, two for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and one hundred and twenty-one premises for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

One of the manufacturers uses the "cold mix" powder method of production, and sells the ice-cream from a small ice-cream "bar".

The other manufacturer sells ice-cream on a large scale using from 15 to 18 vehicles. He uses the sterilised canned ice-cream mix in special "soft serve" machines in the vans.

The vans were originally found to be operating from a depot which did not conform with our requirements under the provisions of the Act, and after some pressure the owners secured newly built premises in our District, which were designed for the business in full co-operation with the Public Health Department.

The new premises are now registered under the Act. We have been advised by the Ministry that as soon as a vehicle is on a premises for the purpose of the manufacture and storage for sale of ice-cream, those premises are registerable, if not the vehicle, and control can be established.

In practice, regular visits are made and samples taken from all the vehicles during the morning just before the vans are ready to start their round for the day.

The samples were generally placed in Grade 1 or 2, and the results indicated that samples were satisfactory.

Bacteriological Examination of
Ice-cream by Methylene Blue
Reduction Test.

	No. of samples.	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
"Soft ice-cream manufacture	32	26	2	4	-
Pre-packed ice-cream	8	6	2	-	-
Cold mix ice-cream	14	9	-	3	2

Where samples were placed in Grades 3 & 4, immediate checks were made on the "method", machines or plant concerned and then further samples taken which resulted in a satisfactory improvement to Grade 1 again.

Milk.

Ideally milk should be consumed as it came from the cow, but because of the possibility that it may contain pathogenic organisms, we have accepted the fact, somewhat grudgingly, that it should be heat-treated, and in this respect the general preference has been for pasteurisation rather than sterilisation.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1963 provide for the discontinuance of the present system of T.T. licensing in England and Wales.

From October 1st, 1964, the special designation for raw milk will be "untreated" instead of "Tuberculin Tested". But until December 31st, 1964, the words "Tuberculin Tested" may be used as an alternative.

The special designations for heat-treated milk will continue to be "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised". From September 29th, 1963, until December 31st, 1964, however, milk which has been pasteurised under licence in accordance with the regulations may be sold as either "Pasteurised" or "Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)."

All milk sold by retail in England and Wales must, except with the consent of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, be specially designated milk. Those producers - mainly producer - retailers - who will still be required by law to use a special designation in relation to their milk will continue to be licensed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food to do so. Distributors will continue to be licensed by local authorities. The regulations prescribe the conditions subject to which these licences may be issued to producers and distributors.

The special designation "Tuberculin Tested" is considered to be no longer suitable as a description for some milk only, since all milk produced in England and Wales now comes, and will continue to come, from attested herds, that is from cows which are subject to tuberculin testing by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

The dairy industry in this country has consistently maintained a household delivery service to the consumer, but this service is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain because of staffing difficulties. The introduction of the 6-day delivery week and the 5 day working week for distribution and processing workers indicates that if working hours are to be reduced further, this service may be curtailed if a rise in the cost of the product is to be avoided. It would appear that the delivery service may suffer further restrictions in the foreseeable future. The tendency to sales through shops will no doubt increase.

With the curtailment of milk deliveries the need for milk which will keep sweet for a much longer period but which will be just as palatable as the customary supply of pasteurised/homogenised milk is evident. There is already a process known as Ultra High Temperature treatment of milk which it is considered will fulfil this need.

The dairy industry is very conscious of the problems which face them in the immediate future and much research and experimental work has been carried out in order to resolve these difficulties. It would appear that in the foreseeable future milk will be delivered to the consumer fewer times per week, the carrying and delivering capacity of the retail salesmen will be increased and that milk other than sterilised milk which has a longer keeping quality than pasteurised milk will be available. No doubt this type of milk will be sold in non-returnable containers.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.
The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.

The three private slaughterhouses in the Council's district were made to comply with the new construction regulations by the prescribed date and slaughtering of animals is now regularly carried out at these premises. Regular inspections were made at each of the slaughterhouses regarding the cleanliness and repair of the premises and equipment, and hygienic practices, personal hygiene and conduct in the slaughtering processes.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1958.
Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)
Regulations, 1958.

These Acts and Regulations are for the purpose of preventing cruelty and ensuring that no animals shall be slaughtered in a slaughterhouse except by a person licensed by the local authority.

The licences of 6 slaughtermen were renewed during the year.

Inspections were made daily at each of the two larger slaughterhouses, and as required at the small slaughterhouse, under the above Acts and Regulations. Particular attention was paid to the provision of adequate water supplies and bedding etc. in the lairages. Animals were not kept long enough in the lairages to require feeding as required by the Prevention of Cruelty Regulations.

Poultry Packing Stations.

There are two establishments in the area in which poultry are processed on an extensive scale, one for turkeys and the other for chickens, mainly of the broiler type.

The birds are killed, bled, fed into plucking machines, singed, eviscerated, eviscerated carcasses, washed and placed into chill-tanks. The carcasses are then placed in cellophane bags and subsequently loaded into blast freezers. The birds emerge in a hard frozen condition and are packed in cartons in readiness for distribution. In the case of the chickens, the whole process taking only 35 minutes.

These poultry packing stations have been the subject of frequent inspections and they claim an increasing proportion of the inspector's time.

Meat Inspection.

The following table indicates the number and different classes of animals slaughtered and inspected and the number of animals affected with:-

- (a) tuberculosis
- (b) cysticercosis bovis
- (c) diseases other than tuberculosis and
cysticercosis bovis.

The technique of meat inspection used was as recommended by Memorandum 3 (Meat), and from October 1st, 1963, is now as modified by the Meat Inspection Regulations, which are based on the Memorandum, and have the force of law.

Tuberculosis was absent in cattle, but 1.5% of the total number of pigs inspected were found to have either Bovine or Avian Tuberculosis lesions, or lesions of a bacillary necrotic nature or the corynebacterium equi type, in the submaxillary nodes of the head.

Unfortunately, the time necessary to establish the true nature of the lesions, microscopically and bacteriologically at the Laboratory is too long to be of other than professional interest and it is the practice to condemn the pig's head, and examine the rest of the carcass and organs in detail before passing them as fit for food.

The incidence of diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis would appear to be fairly high again, but the records show that a very high percentage of the figures represent parasitical damage to the livers of cattle, sheep and pigs, leaving the whole carcass fit for food.

However, the fairly high percentage of livers condemned throughout the country due to fascioliasis in the case of cattle and sheep, represent a considerable loss to the butcher, and the nation as a whole.

Cysticercosis bovis was found in 101 cattle, one of which was a cow. The technique of inspection used for cysticercus bovis is as recommended in the Practice Notes on the subject, by the Association of Public Health Inspectors.

In one of the carcasses examined nine viable cysts were found distributed throughout the head, heart and skirt. The offal was condemned and the carcass was jointed up into butcher's joints. No further cysts were found, and the carcass was then sent for refrigeration in accordance with the Regulations.

In another case ten degenerate cysts were found in the heart. After similar inspection treatment no further cysts were found, and the carcass was sent for refrigeration.

Of the 101 cases of Cysticercus bovis:-

45 beasts had a single cyst in the masseter muscles of the head.

3 beasts had a single cyst in the masseter muscles of the head, and also one in the heart.

38 beasts had a single cyst in the heart.

3 beasts had a single cyst in the diaphragm.

11 beasts had a single cyst in the masseter muscles of the head, and also one each in the heart and diaphragm.

1 beast had a single cyst in the root of the tongue.

The total carcass weight condemned was 1 ton, 6 cwt. 3 qtrs., and in the case of offal was 5 tons. 5 cwt. 4 qtrs.

Causes of condemnation other than Tuberculosis and cysticercosis bovis included :-

Abscesses; actinomycosis; actinobacillosis; general parasitical condition of livers and lungs (e.g. fascioliasis, T. echinococcus, T. marginata, muellerius capillaris, ascaris lumbricoides), cirrhosis; telangiectasis; pericarditis; peritonitis; pneumonia; pleurisy; bruising; pathological emaciation; septicaemia; pyaemia; jaundice; metritis; b. necrosis; septic omphalophlebitis; nephritis; melanosis; oedema and carcinoma.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3,516	219	244	8,962	3,702
Number inspected	3,516	219	244	8,962	3,702
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	3	1	Nil	3
Part carcass or organ condemned....	825	66	3	180	435
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.....	23.49%	31.5%	1.6%	2.0%	11.8%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Part carcasses or organ condemned....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	56
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.5%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Part carcass or organ condemned...	100	1			
Carcasses refrigerated.....	14	Nil			
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil			
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerci.....	2.8%	0.45%			

CLEAN AIR.

The Wycombe Rural District Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air.

The Society was born in 1899. It did valuable pioneering work during the early years and made it understood that "Clean Air" was not the impractical fad of a few cranks. In 1959 the Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. Today, with the Clean Air Act in force covering household smoke, smoke nuisances and industrial smoke, fume, and grit and dust, the opportunities for useful activity by the Society are greater than ever before.

Clean Air is our Affair.

One and a half million tons of smoke and nearly a million tons of grit and ash are poured out of Britain's chimneys, industrial and domestic, each year - and this knows no boundaries.

Air pollution is a major problem. It caused blackening and damage to buildings, metal and other materials, and harms crops, trees and flowers, makes the work of the housewife harder and adds to the nation's cleaning and painting bills. It encourages bronchitis, coughs and catarrh, and is a factor in lung cancer. It costs the nation £300 million a year.

The Smog of December, 1962.

The fog which occurred exactly ten years after the disastrous episode of 1952 gave rise to considerable anxiety at the time. However, the mortality proved to be far less than in 1952. For the County of London the deaths attributed to the fog in 1962 were about 340, compared with 2,000 in 1952. It is estimated that the smoke content of the air in London was 37% less than in 1952.

Thus the indications are, that the reduction of smoke contributed greatly to the reduction in deaths, and that smoke prevention through the Clean Air Act is well worth while.

Railways.

The reduction of railway smoke is progressing as the British Transport Commission implements its modernisation schemes.

Industry.

The prevention of industrial smoke raises many technical problems, Considerable sums however are being spent on plant improvement and industry is generally recognising its obligations to reduce air pollution

Domestic

The domestic chimney is responsible for more than half the total smoke from all sources. Smoke control orders are the means provided by the Clean Air Act for dealing with the domestic smoke problem.

Improvements in this sphere are now evolving. New and efficient appliances, and more recently, the openable stoves (fires behind glass) are replacing the old type of firegrate. Solid smokeless fuels are ousting coal, and oil fuel, piped and wired fuels are taking an ever increasing share of the home heating "load".

Control Measures

Control measures which the Council are at present operating in order to prevent or alleviate atmospheric pollution include:-

- (1) Action where necessary against emissions of dark smoke, and securing the minimum emissions of grit and dust.
- (2) Action to abate smoke nuisances (e.g. bonfires for burning garden or industrial refuse, incinerators and wood refuse burning etc.)
- (3) Ensuring that new industrial furnaces are not installed unless they are capable so far as practicable of being operated without emitting smoke.
- (4) Regulating the height of chimneys in connection with the erection or extension of industrial buildings.
- (5) Implementing byelaws which require all new buildings to be equipped with smokeless fuel appliances.
- (6) One smoke control order made jointly by the Council and a neighbouring local authority is now operative in connection with a new housing estate, part of which is in the Council's district, and part in the area of the neighbouring authority.

One hundred and nineteen inspections with regard to smoke observations, grit observations, boiler plant inspections, smoke nuisances and interviews were made under the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

Pollution from Road Vehicles

It has been reported by the National Society for Clean Air that the present method of control of vehicle pollution by the police, under the Road Traffic Act was of limited effectiveness and called for constructive action on Diesel smoke. They also proposed that new regulations to abate diesel smoke should be made (1) so that the fuel feed control on diesel engines should be set and sealed below the smoke formation point and that it should not be altered except by an authorised person: (2) all diesel-engined vehicles should be required to undergo an annual inspection regarding their liability to produce smoke, including the setting and sealing of the fuel stop. It was also urged that the Ministry of Transport should extend its check system on a national and permanent basis, and that its staff of trained vehicle examiners should be enlarged to make this possible.

SANITATION

Improvements in rural sewerage have resulted in the connection of some 200,000 rural houses to main drainage in the last five years alone and new connections are being made at the rate of 40,000 a year.

In our own district cesspools and septic tanks have been eliminated on a large scale in recent years due to the implementation of main drainage schemes in the more populated parts of the district. Areas remaining to be sewered include Lane End and District, Lacey Green, Loosley Row, parts of Kimble, Longwick, Ellesborough and parts of Bledlow Parish, Marlow Bottom, Bovingdon Green, Medmenham and Bledlow Ridge.

In cases where owners have not connected their properties to the sewers the Public Health Inspectors have been engaged on checking the drainage systems, and where found to be defective or insufficient appropriate action has been taken to enforce the connection of the soil drains to the sewers. In many cases also action has been taken to secure the conversion of pail closets into water closets.

FACTORIES, OFFICES AND SHOPS

Factories Act, 1961

The factory premises registered with the Council number 171.

The tables submitted herewith contain statistical information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and include the work of the Public Health Inspector in relation to factory administration as it concerns the local authority.

Matters claiming attention include cleanliness, ventilation, lighting and sanitary accommodation. A number of factories have canteens and are therefore subject to the provision of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1961, and inspections are carried out concurrently.

Homework

A provision of the Factories Act 1961 requires firms employing outworkers to furnish to the local authority twice yearly lists giving the names and addresses of persons carrying out specified work connected with the business of the factory at premises outside the factory.

Homes of the outworkers should conform to a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene.

The lists submitted to the Council showed that outworkers were principally employed on the making and altering of wearing apparel.

1. Inspection made for Provisions as to Health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	3	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	168	78	8	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals.....	171	81	8	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted.
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation..	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences...					
(a) Insufficient.....	3	3	1	1	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	5	9	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers).....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	8	14	1	1	Nil

OUTWORKERS.

Sections 133 and 134, Factories Act, 1961.

	Section 133		No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council		No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making etc.....	14	-	-	-	-	-
Household Linen	6	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace curtains and nets.	12	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers.....	8	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and Upholstery.....	4	-	-	-	-	-
Button Carding.	18	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	62	-	-	-	-	-

Rag Flock.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, forbids the use of filling materials to which the Act applies for such purposes as upholstery and the stuffing of bedding, toys and baby carriages except on premises registered by a local authority. There are 19 premises registered under the Act, in the Rural District.

Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are given by regulations and penalties are prescribed for using unclean materials.

During the year samples of rag flock were collected and submitted to the prescribed analyst for examination. All samples were found to conform to the prescribed standard of cleanliness.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

In preceding annual reports I have drawn attention to the lack of legislation with regard to public health matters affecting persons working in office and other non-industrial employment. Fifteen years have passed since the publication of a report on this subject by a committee under the chairmanship of Sir Ernest Gowers. The Committee recommended the introduction of legislation in order to secure satisfactory conditions, and the absence of constructive remedies has caused widespread criticism.

At long last however The Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963 has been introduced and received the Royal Assent on the 31st July, 1963. This Act enables regulations to be made for securing the health, safety and welfare of people, estimated to number eight million, who, are employed in shops, offices and railway premises.

Provision is made for the registration of premises, and matters relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing, facilities for sitting and eating. Safety requirements in connection with floors, stairs, steps, passage and gangways; fencing of dangerous machinery, stringent fire precautions and notification of accidents.

The various provisions of the Act will come into force in 1965 on days to be appointed by the Minister of Labour.

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

Pests in the form of insects, rats and mice have always been enemies of the human race and although a great deal has been done to bring them under control the war against them still continues. Science has placed in our hands chemical weapons of great power and efficiency but continual efforts are necessary to keep these pests at bay.

We in this country do not suffer so greatly from the depredations of insect and rodent pests as many people in other parts of the world. In large areas of the world insects take a fearful toll in terms of ill health and death, misery and economic loss.

We are fortunate in not being exposed to the worst ravages of these pests but we still have our problems. The danger of the spread of disease cannot be discounted completely - we must always be on the alert. Apart from the ill health hazard, insect pests, rats and mice do considerable damage to property and destroy and contaminate large quantities of food.

Pest control is a serious and important subject and requires a good deal of technical knowledge and skill to be performed efficiently. Its importance is reflected in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which clearly defines the duties of owners and occupiers of premises and local authorities in the work of pest extermination. Rodent control is a community responsibility, and in this connection occupiers of premises can play an important part by reporting immediately any infestation which occurs in order that action may be promptly taken.

Workable Area Committee.

The Council is a constituent member of the South Bucks & East Berks Workable Area Committee and meetings of the Committee have been held at regular intervals.

The Committee, comprised of representatives from Local authorities, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and other interested organisations, is a most useful medium for exchange of views of pest destruction work.

Research work is continuously carried out by personnel of the Ministry in order to discover more effective material and methods for pest destruction and members of the Committee are kept informed of these developments.

Rodent Control Treatment.

The Council's rodent control service is provided free to domestic premises but a charge is made for work done on all business premises. During 1963, 188 business premises and 351 farms were serviced mainly under the Council's annual contract scheme and the total income from this work amounted to £1,295.0s.0d. 541 dwelling houses were treated by the Department.

Other Pests.

Complaints of pests other than rodents were received and treatments given resulted in the destruction of 32 wasps nests. Harassed residents were very appreciative of the service given.

Work carried out.

As a result of survey and notification by occupiers of infested premises, extermination of rodents has been carried out at dwelling houses, factory premises, food premises, refuse tips etc. Details relating to the work are submitted in the accompanying table:-

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

		Local Authority	Dwelling houses	All other premises	Total	Agricu- tural
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District		17	16,161	915	17,093	340
No. of pro- perties in- spected as a result of	Notification	-	391	32	423	99
	Survey	17	201	152	370	177
	Otherwise	-	5,543	1,814	7,357	-
No. of properties inspected as a re- sult of notifica- tion found to be in- fested by	Major Common Rat	-	1	1	2	12
	House mouse	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor Common Rat	-	329	29	358	92
	House mouse	-	76	17	93	66
No. of properties inspected as a re- sult of survey - found to be in- fested by	Major Common Rat	1	-	1	2	7
	House mouse	-	-	-	-	2
	Minor Common Rat	7	45	53	105	104
	House mouse	2	30	55	87	68
No. of properties otherwise inspected found to be infested by	Major Common Rat	-	-	-	-	-
	House mouse	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor Common Rat	-	39	18	57	-
	House mouse	-	21	15	36	-
No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority		10	541	189	740	351

MISCELLANEOUS.

Caravans.

Implementation of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960, has steadily proceeded during the year under review.

This Act, designed to strengthen the powers of local authorities and planning authorities to control the siting of caravans, and to ensure that caravan sites are properly equipped and run, necessitated a survey of all caravan sites in the district.

When planning permissions are given site licences have to be issued and conditions prescribed in order to regulate the sites and secure satisfactory conditions. The Inspectors of the Public Health Department have been extensively engaged in this work and during the year 1963 the sites were the subject of 604 visits.

37 licences were issued during 1963 relating to the stationing of 59 caravans. Since the commencement of the Act a total of 246 licences have been approved thereby permitting 298 caravans to be occupied.

As stated in previous reports it is said that caravan sites are an admission of failure to build houses or make available houses at prices which the people can afford. Most of the people living in caravans would prefer to be in houses.

Agriculture, (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Certain provisions of this Act require local authorities to determine the sufficiency of sanitary conveniences for the use of workers on agricultural units, and by notice secure additional sanitary accommodation where there is inadequate provision.

During the year 1963 inspection of agricultural units continued, and 3 occupiers were requested to provide sufficient sanitary accommodation for their employees.

Hairdressers.

The Council have adopted Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act which provides for the registration of hair-dressers and barbers. Section 77 of the Public Health Act, 1961, makes similar provision for registration.

The Council have now made byelaws under the aforementioned Act for the purpose of securing cleanliness of the premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment together with the cleanliness of persons employed on the premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

At the end of the year there were 33 premises registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdressing. Fourteen visits were paid to these premises with a view to securing compliance with your Council's Byelaws. Premises and methods were generally satisfactory.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metals and Marine Stores.

There are 12 premises within the rural district where the business of dealing in old metals is transacted and the premises are registered in accordance with Section 88 of the Public Health Amendments Act 1907. Dealers are required to keep records in relation to the articles they purchase.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

This Act which received Royal Assent on the 31st July, 1963, and comes into operation on the 1st January, 1964, prohibits the keeping of a boarding establishment for animals, (dogs & cats), except under the authority of a licence granted by the local authority.

In determining whether to grant a licence for the keeping of a boarding establishment a local authority shall have regard to the need for securing satisfactory accommodation for the animals as respects construction, size of quarters, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; adequate provision for food, drink and bedding material; precautions to prevent spread of infectious diseases and the protection of animals in case of fire.

Owners of animal boarding establishments in this district have been approached and the provisions of the Act made known to them. Arrangements at the end of the year were proceeding in order to effect the registration of the premises concerned. Ten Animal Boarding Establishments are now registered.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act regulates the sale of pet animals making provision for the licensing of pet animal shops and imposing conditions for the animals to be accommodated and cared for in a satisfactory manner.

One shop was licensed during the year under review.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

This Act makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale any heating appliance not fitted with a suitable guard.

No contraventions of the Act have been observed.

Licensing of Game Dealers.

The Council granted five licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Infectious Diseases.

One-hundred and eighty-five visits have been made in connection with cases of notifiable infectious diseases. Relevant information with regard to the history of the cases obtained and recorded and contacts checked.

Noise.

Nuisance from noise is an everyday experience - aircraft, factory machines, electric fans, pneumatic drills, road traffic, over-loud radio sets are but a few of the causes. It is understandable that with more knowledge of the availability of technical and administrative measures of control and measurement there is an increasing demand for its abatement.

Like most forms of nuisance, much of the noise suffered is either unnecessary or capable of prevention, and, because it may curtail sleep or otherwise affect health, it is only right that the hand of the local authority should have been strengthened by the appearance on the Statute Book of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

This Act however has certain limitations and it is considered that it will not be effective until the law fixes noise levels. A Committee set up four years ago under the Chairmanship of Sir Alan Wilson has submitted a final report to the Minister of Science on the nature, sources and effects of the problem of noise.

It is expected that a White Paper will be issued recommending maximum acceptable levels of external noise. Further control measures could be suggested as for example noise control areas and compulsory sound insulation of buildings.

In the interim period local authorities and their officers have the difficult task of dealing with complaints and having to determine where noise interferes with ordinary physical comfort of human existence sufficiently to become an actionable nuisance.

During the year 68 visits were made in connection with alleged noise nuisances. In the cases where statutory nuisances were confirmed, appropriate action was taken in order to secure abatement of the nuisances.

CONCLUSION.

This report gives some indication of the work of the Council towards improving environmental hygiene standards in the district.

There are problems still to be overcome. Constant vigilance and action is therefore necessary by central government and local authorities supported by an informed public in order to maintain and improve upon the standards we now enjoy.

